

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: ALLON ON GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WEST BANK

1. FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON IN RECENT DAYS HAS SOUNDED A STERN NOTE ON RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE ALLON PLAN. ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN, AMERICAN AND CANADIAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE ON DECEMBER 27, ALLON REJECTED A STRONGER ROLE FOR THE USSR IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE-MAKING, ASSERTING THAT THE SOVIETS WERE IN THE POCKET OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES. HE MAINTAINED THAT A RENEWAL OF SOVIET/ISRAELI RELATIONS WOULD BE OF GREATER BENEFIT TO THE USSR THAN TO ISRAEL CITING AS EVIDENCE THE STRONG U.S. INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BASED ON ITS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. ALLON ALSO DECLARED THAT NO REAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE UNDER THE TWO SUPERPOWERS AT A FUTURE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE DIRECT AND TAKE PLACE IN THIS AREA (MIDDLE EAST). AT THE SAME TIME HE SAID THAT ISRAEL'S
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DECLARED WILLINGNESS TO MEET AGAIN AT GENEVA IS NOT A "TACTIC; WE MEAN IT." COMMENT: A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (BAVLI) EXPLAINED THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION BY STATING THAT THE GENEVA FORUM COULD NOT BE THE VENUE FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BUT WOULD BE THE SYMBOLIC AND CEREMONIAL UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE. IT STRIKES US

THAT THIS SCENARIO IS INTENDED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ISRAEL'S PENCHANT FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS VERSUS ARAB INSISTENCE ON THE PESENCE OF A MEDIATOR. END COMMENT.

2. FOLLOWING A TOUR OF THE WEST BANK ON DECEMBER 28, ALLON DECLARED THAT HE WILL SOON UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN ON NTENSIFYING SETTLEMENT "WEST OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND NORTH OF THE DEAD SEA." HE ASSERTED THAT INCREASED SETTLEMENT ON THE EASTERN FRINGES OF THE WEST BANK, AS IN THE ETZION BLOC, THE RAFAH APPROACHES, AND SHARM EL-SHEIKH, WOULD SERVE AS A LEVER IN ISRAEL'S POLITICAL STRUGGLE. COMMENT: ALLON'S TOUR OF THE WEST BANK AND HIS REMARKS SHOULD BE READ IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY SHAPING UP OVER THE REVISION OF THE LABOR PARTY'S 14 POINTS--THE PLATFORM ON WHICH THE PARTY RAN IN THE 1973 KNESSET ELECTION. ALLON SEEMS TO BE SERVING NOTICE THAT HE WILL OPPOSE SIGNIFICANT LIBERALIZATION OF THE 14 POINTS IN ANY MANNER WHICH WOULD SPELL OUT ISRAEL'S READINESS TO WITHDRAW FROM MOST OF THE WEST BANK (A DEMAND THAT MAPAM IS CURRENTLY PUSHING HARD WHILE IT DELIBERATES TO LABOR'S DISCOMFORT OVER REMAINING IN THE ALIGNMENT). END COMMENT.

3. ADDRESSING THE KNESSET LATER ON DECEMBER 28, ALLON RE-ITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REJECTING AN UNYIELDING POSITION REGARDING TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE. THE TEXT OF EXCERTPS OF HIS SPEECH FOLLOS: BEGIN TEXT: CONDITIONS FOR THE SORT OF PEACE SETTLEMENT THE ALIGNMENT ENVISAGES AND WILL FIGHT FOR ARE PROBABLY NOT YET RIPE--I.E., A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT ANSWERING BOTH ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS AND GOING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO SATISFY THE AMBITIONS OF OUR NEIGHBORS--INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARABS. THERE IS NO DOUBT WE SHALL HAVE TO FACE SOME TOUGH, VERY TOUGH, STRUGGLES BEFORE WE REACH THE ERA OF PEACE AND COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. A THIRD STATE BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE DESERT POSES A VERY GAVE DANGER, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIERCELY OPPOSE THIS IDEA. THIS IS A CONTINGENCY WE TOTALLY NEGATE IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM. ONE THING, HOWEVER, IS EVEN WORSE--AND IT IS LIABLE TO BE INCLUSIVE OF THE THIRD-STATE EVIL--AND THAT IS THE EVIL OF AN IMPOSED SOLUTION, WHICH IS WAHT THE ARAB STATES SEEM TO BE AIMING FOR TODAY. A TOUGH AND UNBENDING POLICY ON THE PART OF ISRAEL, OF THE SORT PROPOSED BY THE "HERUT" MOVEMENT AND "GUSH EMUNIM"--A POLICY WHICH WOULD TOTALLY ISOLAE US IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA--MIGHT WELL BRING THIS EVIL UPON US.

5. UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED AFTER THE ELECTIONS,
THIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WIELD FULL POWERS--AS IS
INCUMBENT NOT ONLY IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS, BUT
ALSO IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE. WE
SHALL NOT, FOR FEAR OF THE ELECTIONS, REFRAIN FROM ANY
ACTIONS DEMANDED BY THE GOOD OF THE STATE, NOR SHALL WE
TAKE, FOR FEAR OF THE ELECTIONS, ANY ACTIONS NOT DEMANDED
BY THE NEEDS OF STATE. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ACT TO
THE BEST OF OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ABILITY--IN FOREIGN
POLICY NO LESS THAN IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL ISSUES NO LESS THAN IN MATTERS OF LAW AND
ADMINISTRATION. END TEXT
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